

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 4. This Replacement Sheet, which includes Fig. 4, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 4. In Fig. 4, previously omitted reference numerals 72, 74, 80, 82, 84 and 86 have been added. A duplicative reference numeral 70 has been amended.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4). The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The disclosure was objected to because of informalities. Claims 1 and 2 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Donges et al., U.S. Publication No. 2003/0094111.

Paragraph [0039] has been amended.

Claims 1 to 10 have been amended.

A Replacement Sheet including Fig. 4 is enclosed herewith.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4). The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a).

A replacement sheet including Fig. 4 is enclosed herewith. The duplicative reference numeral "70" has been deleted and replaced with reference numeral 72 indicating a fourth phase position. Reference numeral 74 has been added indicating a fifth phase position. Reference numerals 80, 82, 84 and 86 have been added to indicate a leading edge, trailing edge, leading receiving element and trailing receiving element respectively.

Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) and 37 CFR 1.83(a) is respectfully requested.

Specification

The disclosure was objected to because of informalities.

Paragraph [0039] has been amended. Applicants thank the Examiner for the suggestion.

Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 1 and 2 were objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Applicants respectfully submit the amendments overcome the objections.

Withdrawal of the objections to the claims is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Applicants respectfully submit claims 1 and 2 now particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.

Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Donges et al., U.S. Publication No. 2003/0094111.

Donges et al. recites a clamping bar holding a printing plate 500 conveyed to the plate cylinder at its front edge 510. Printing plate 500 is subsequently pulled by the rotary motion of plate cylinder 260 out of the printing-plate cassette and clamped onto the plate cylinder. Upon reaching a trailing edge of printing plate 500, nip roller 300 is briefly moved slightly away and is then forced into direct contact again, in order to press the trailing edge of the printing plate into a corresponding groove of plate cylinder 260. The speed during clamping of printing plate 500 corresponds more or less to rendezvous speed. A control device 600 is provided to coordinate the movements and the speeds of plate cylinder 260 and of printing plate 500.

As amended, claim 1 recites “[a] method of changing the mounting condition of a printing master on a printing master cylinder, the printing master including a leading edge and a trailing edge, the printing master cylinder including a leading receiving element for receiving and releasing the leading edge and a trailing receiving element for receiving and releasing the trailing edge, the method comprising:

mounting a printing master including the successive steps of:

rotating the printing master cylinder at a first mounting speed;

reducing the speed of the printing master cylinder from the first mounting speed to a second mounting speed at a leading reducing speed phase position of the printing master cylinder;

closing the leading receiving element in a leading closing phase position of the printing master cylinder, the printing master cylinder being rotated with the second mounting speed during closing of the leading receiving element;

increasing the speed of the printing master cylinder from the second mounting speed during an acceleration phase position;

reducing the speed of the printing master cylinder to a third mounting speed at a trailing reducing speed phase position; and

closing the trailing receiving element at a trailing closing phase position while the printing master cylinder is rotated with the third mounting speed;

dismounting the printing master including the successive steps of:

rotating the printing master cylinder at a first dismounting speed;

reducing the speed of the printing master cylinder from the first dismounting speed to a second dismounting speed at a dismount trailing reducing speed phase position of the printing master cylinder;

opening the trailing receiving element at a trailing opening phase position of the printing master cylinder, the printing master cylinder being rotated with the second dismounting speed during opening of the trailing receiving element; and

increasing the speed of the printing master cylinder from the second dismounting speed during a dismount acceleration phase position.” (emphasis added).

Donges et al. does not teach the requirement of “closing the trailing receiving element at a trailing closing phase position while the printing master cylinder is rotated with the third mounting speed” recited in claim 1. Donges et al. teaches a nip roller 300 pressing a trailing edge into a “corresponding groove” of plate cylinder 260. See paragraph [0017]. A groove does not open or close.

Donges et al. also does not teach a “third mounting speed.” In Donges et al. the speed of the plate cylinder is reduced from a printing speed to a rendezvous speed then returned to a printing speed. “Printing plate 500 is pulled by rotary motion of plate cylinder 260 out of the cassette and clamped onto plate cylinder 260. The drive of plate cylinder subsequently increases

the speed of the plate cylinder again to printing speed.” See paragraph [0028], lines 11 to 13. Donges et al. does not teach rotating the plate cylinder during clamping at a “third mounting speed.” Thus, Donges et al. does not teach the limitation of “closing the trailing receiving element at a trailing closing phase position while the printing master cylinder is rotated with the third mounting speed” recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, Donges et al. does not teach the requirement of “opening the trailing receiving element at a trailing opening phase position of the printing master cylinder” recited in claim 1. As discussed above the “corresponding groove” in Donges et al. is not opened or closed. Thus, Donges et al. does not teach the limitation of “opening the trailing receiving element” recited in claim 1.

Since Donges et al. does not teach each and every limitation recited in claim 1, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is improper. Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

With further respect to claim 2, claim 2, as amended, further requires “reducing the speed of the printing master cylinder to a third dismounting speed at a dismount leading reducing speed phase position.” Claim 2 directly depends from claim 1.

Donges et al. teaches a printing speed and a slower rendezvous speed. Donges et al. does not teach rotating the plate cylinder during unclamping at a “third dismounting speed.” The acceleration of the plate cylinder from the rendezvous speed to the printing speed does not teach the limitation of “reducing the speed of the printing master cylinder to a third dismounting speed” required by claim 2.

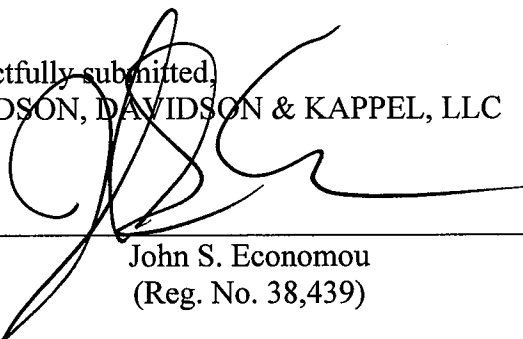
For this reason as well, withdrawal of the rejection to claim 2 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,
DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

By: _____


John S. Economou
(Reg. No. 38,439)

Davidson, Davidson & Kappel, LLC
485 Seventh Avenue
New York, New York 10018
(212) 736-1940